



SO...

WHAT ARE
WE GOING TO DO
WITH THIS?

WE CAN'T GO TO
LORD YISHIMI.

LET'S GO
TO BARI.



WE CAN
TRUST HIM.

HE ISN'T
THE TYPE TO GO
BACK ON HIS
PROMISES.

A traditional East Asian building with a tiled roof and a stone wall in the foreground. The building has a green tiled roof with yellow accents. The stone wall is made of grey stones. The ground is sandy and there are some wooden planks scattered around.

IT MIGHT EVEN
BE BETTER FOR US
IF BARI WINS.



BARI IS A SAFER
BET THAN LORD YISHIMI.
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S
THINKING?

WE KNOW
BARI BETTER
THAN ANYONE BECAUSE
WE'VE SEEN HIM ALL
THIS TIME.



THIS
IS THE BEST
CHOICE...

...FOR
ALL OF US.

HOW TO BECOME A DRAGON

The title is rendered in a playful, hand-drawn style. The words 'HOW' and 'TO BECOME' are in a solid blue, blocky font. The word 'A' is also in solid blue. The word 'DRAGON' is in a blue font with a repeating scale-like pattern. A small, stylized hand with a green palm and blue fingers is positioned at the end of the word 'DRAGON', holding a small, glowing green sphere.

- EPISODE 146 -

18...

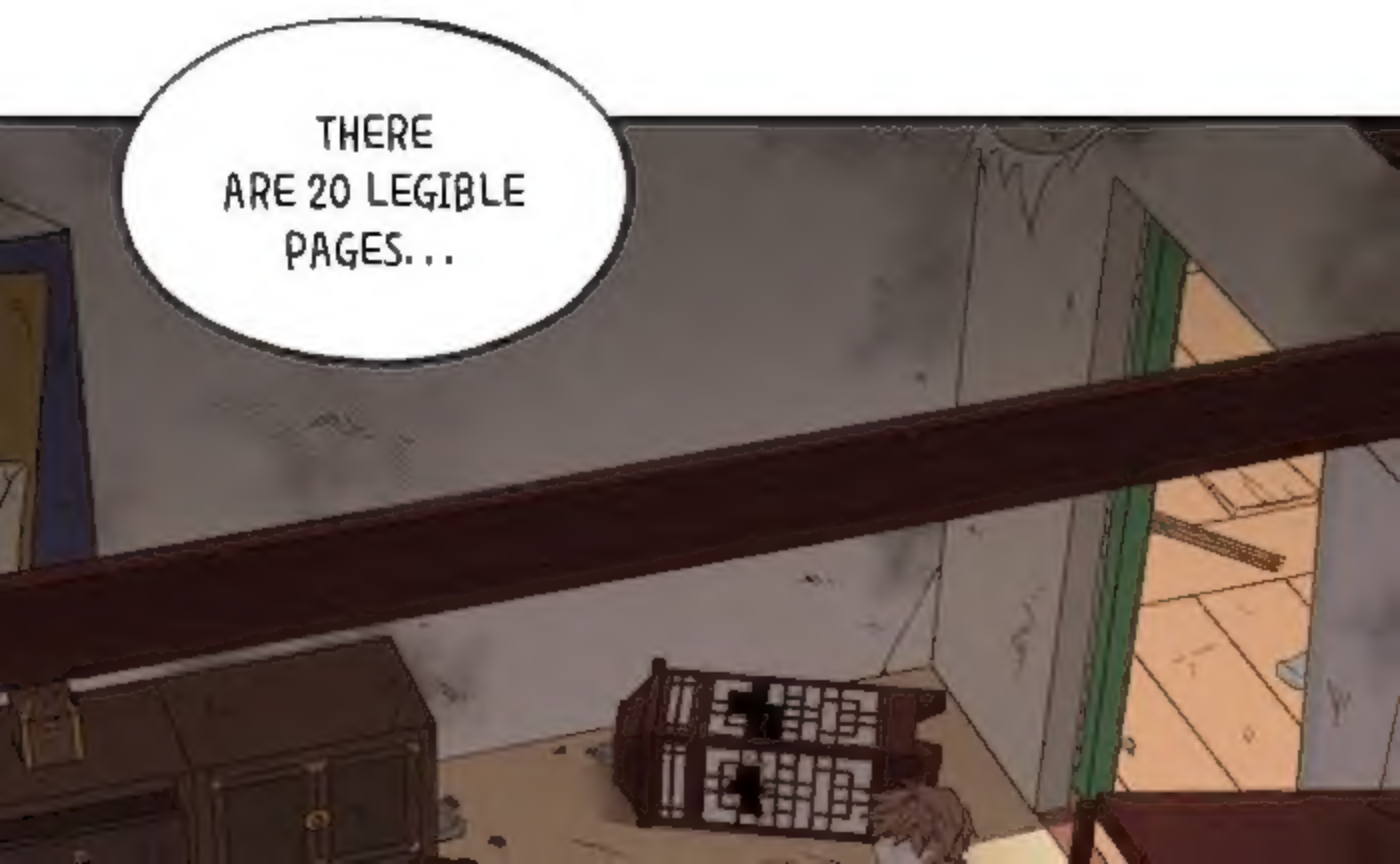


19...

AND...



...20.





... AND THERE
ARE ONLY AROUND
10 YEARS OF RECORDS
REMAINING.

IT'S ONLY
10 YEARS BECAUSE
SO MANY OF THE PAGES IN
THE MIDDLE ARE
MISSING.

IF YOU COMPARE
THE DATES OF THE FIRST
AND LAST ENTRIES, IT SEEMS
THAT OVER 200 YEARS HAVE

PASSED IN BETWEEN.

IS THIS...
THE LAST PAGE?

WHAT DOES
THIS SAY?

RUSTLE





HMM...

IT SAYS...

THE SITUATION
OUTSIDE IS GROWING
MORE DISORDERLY
THAN EVER BEFORE.



MY BROTHER
IS DEEPLY
CONCERNED.

THOUGH
I AM HIS YOUNGER
BROTHER,

I LACK
THE SKILLS AND
KNOWLEDGE TO HELP
EASE HIS BURDEN.



I FEEL SO
APOLOGETIC THAT
I CAN HARDLY
SLEEP.

PERHAPS
THESE LONG YEARS
I HAVE SPENT IN THIS
PLACE WERE SIMPLY
A FLEETING DREAM.

I THOUGHT
THIS STRANGE,
WONDERFUL WORLD
WOULD LAST FOREVER,
BUT NOW A FEAR I HAVE
NEVER FELT BEFORE
DRAWS NEARER.

I AM NOW

I AM NOW
PAINFULLY AWARE OF
THE COMFORT AFFORDED
TO ME AS I LIVED UNDER
MY BROTHER'S CARE.

DISORDER
OUTSIDE...

IS THAT WHEN
THE NAKDONG RIVER
STARTED GETTING
POLLUTED?

IF HIS
BROTHER WAS DEEPLY
CONCERNED...

... HE MUST HAVE
BEEN AN IMPORTANT
FIGURE IN THE
PALACE.

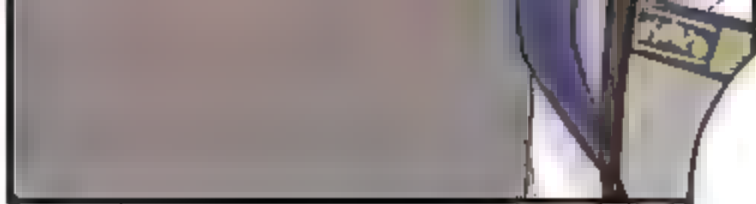
...!

DO YOU
THINK...



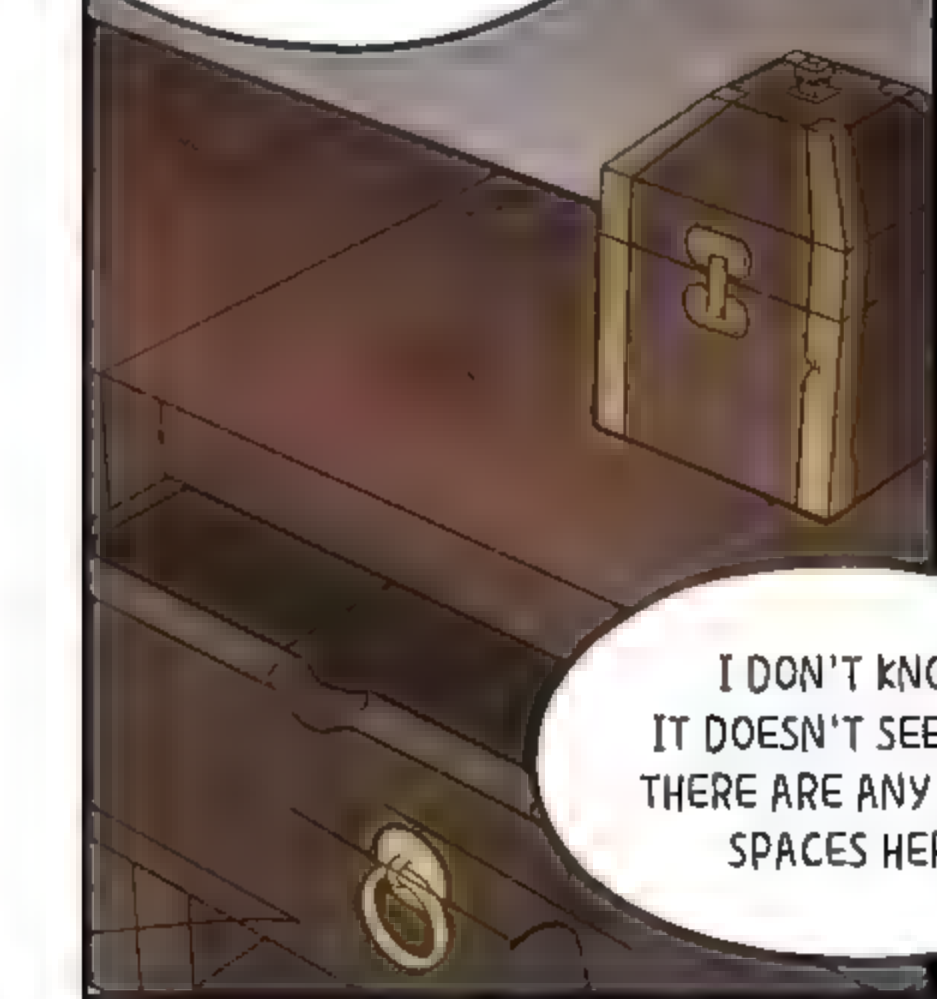
... THIS ROOM
IS ACTUALLY HIS
BROTHER'S...





... AND
THE BOY WHO
WROTE THE JOURNALS
WAS LIVING HERE IN
SECRET?

THAT WOULD
EXPLAIN WHY HE NEVER
MENTIONED THE DRAGON
IN HIS ENTRIES
AT ALL.



I DON'T KNOW.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE
THERE ARE ANY SECRET
SPACES HERE.



PLUS
THE ROOM NEXT TO
THIS ONE BELONGED TO
THE NAKDONG RIVER
DRAGON.

DO YOU THINK
IT'D BE POSSIBLE
TO LIVE HERE FOR EVEN
A COUPLE OF DAYS, MUCH
LESS 200 YEARS?



HEY!
BARI!



THEN
JUST WHAT--



JAHYEON...?

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT,
THE HUMAN IS
WITH YOU?

WELL,
I GUESS IT DOESN'T
MATTER...

COME HERE.

HURRY!

W-WHAT
IS IT?

STEP

CLOSER!





TAE-IN AND
I FOUND IT UNDER
THE BED IN THE MAIN
BEDROOM.



WE LIFTED UP
THE BED AND THERE WAS
SOME KIND OF SECRET
PASSAGEWAY.

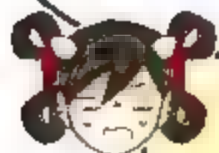


ARE YOU





I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE CRYING
TEARS OF GRATITUDE.
I GUESS I JUST WASN'T
EXPECTING THIS
REACTION...



ARE YOU
SURE THIS ISN'T
A FAKE ORB?



IS THIS JUST
JADE LIKE THE
OTHER ONE?

NO.

THIS ISN'T
JUST AN ORB

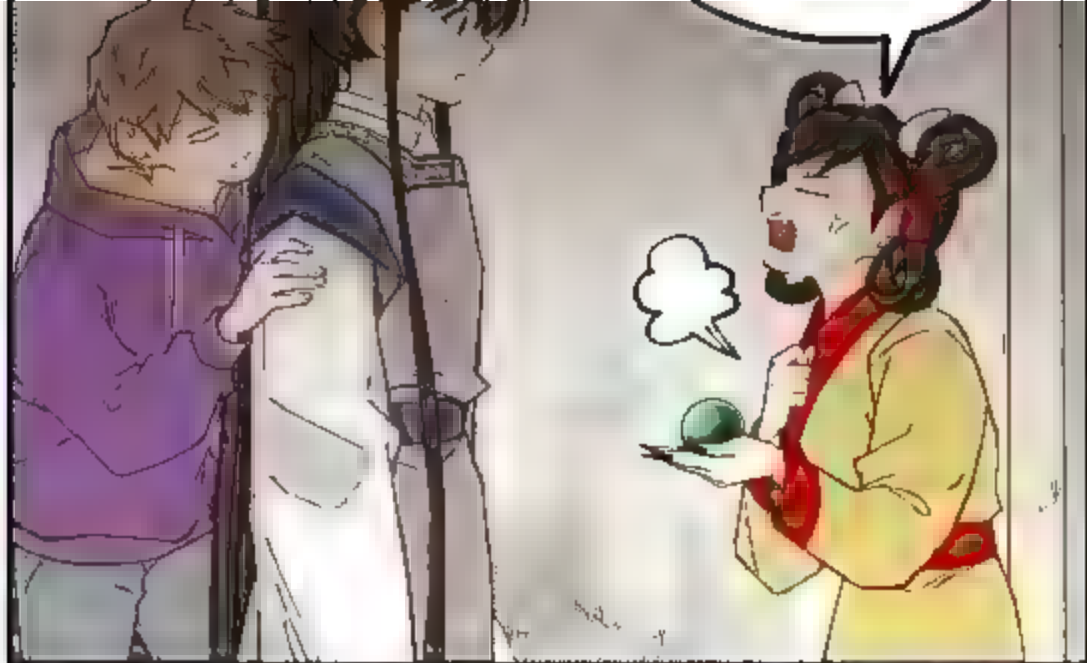


JUST ANY ORB.

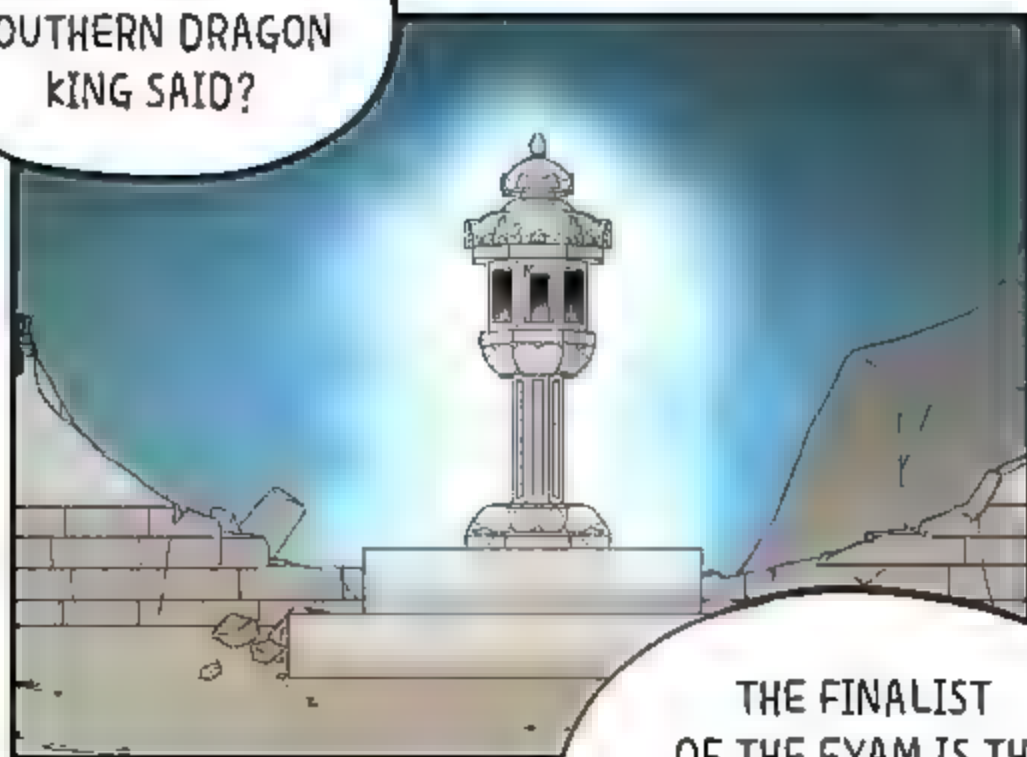
AT A SINGLE
GLANCE, YOU CAN
FEEL THE ENERGY
AND POWER ALL
AT ONCE.

THERE'S
NO DOUBT THAT THIS
IS A MYSTICAL
ITEM.





DID YOU
FORGET WHAT THE
SOUTHERN DRAGON
KING SAID?

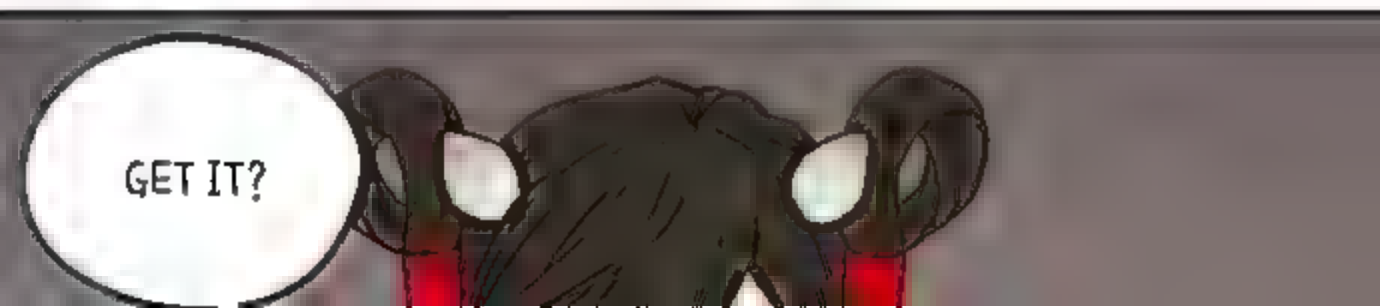


THE FINALIST
OF THE EXAM IS THE
ONE WHO PLACES THE
ORB IN ITS STAND.



IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHO FINDS
THE ORB.

WHAT MATTERS
IS WHO PUTS IT IN
THE STAND!



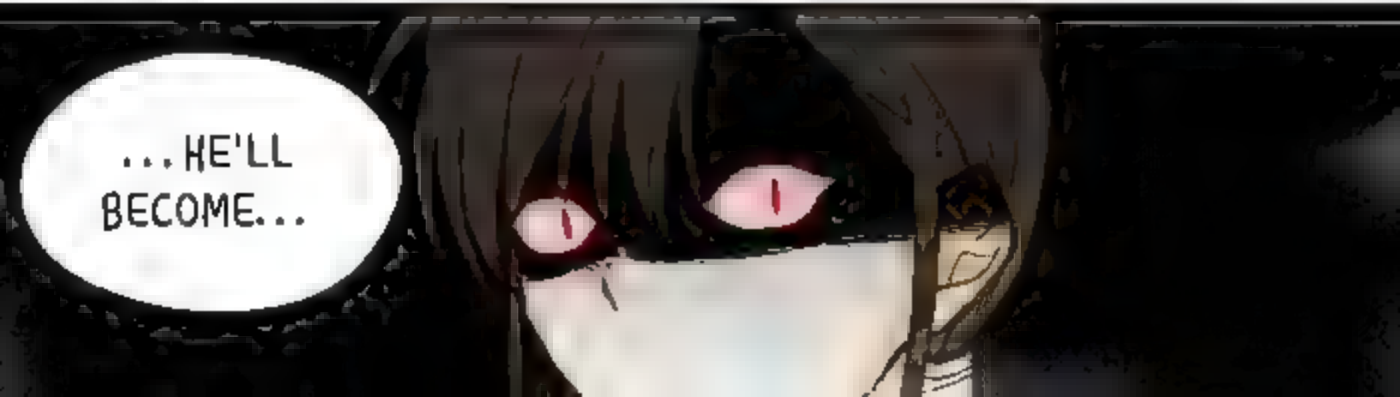
GET IT?





...IF LORD
YISHIMI IS WAITING
FOR YOU NEAR
THE STAND...

...AND TAKES
THE ORB AND PUTS
IT IN FIRST...



...HE'LL
BECOME...

... THE FINALIST!

SO LORD
YISHIMI LEAVING
THE PALACE MEANS
THAT NOW'S YOUR
CHANCE--

W-WAIT,
HOLD ON!





STEP



I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE HE'S HAVING
ANOTHER ONE OF HIS
MOOD SWINGS.

YOU KNOW,
LIKE HE DID DURING
THE FIRST EXAM.

THERE'S
JUST...

STEP

STEP

... NO TELLING
WHAT HE'S
THINKING.

FWSHHHH

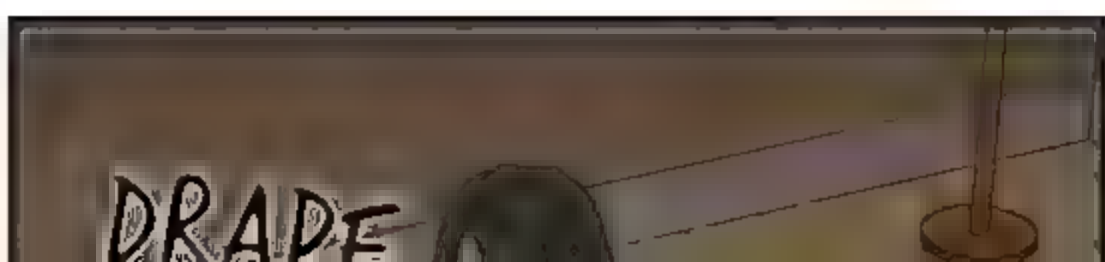


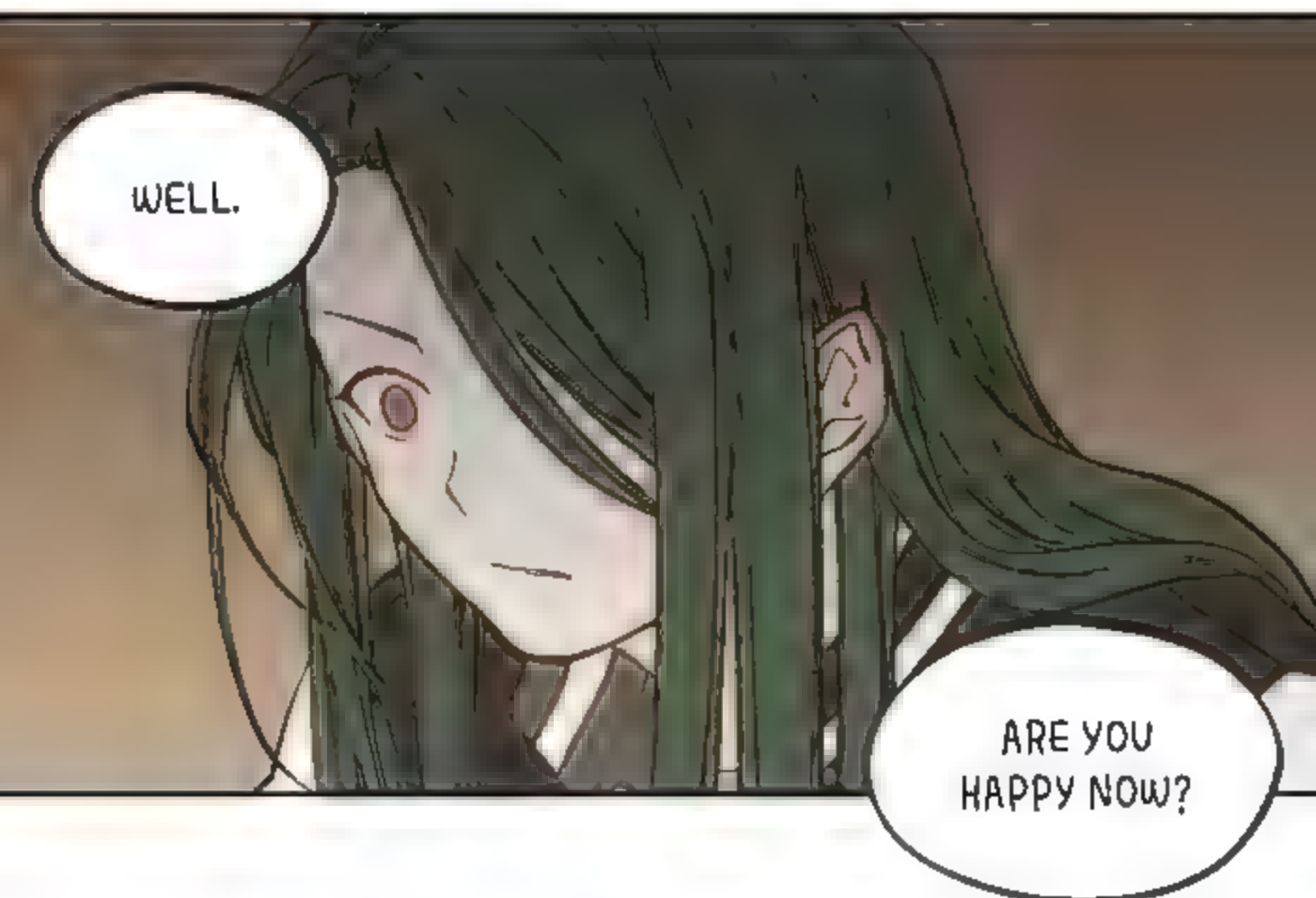


MUMBLE

AFTER
EVERYTHING
I SAID...



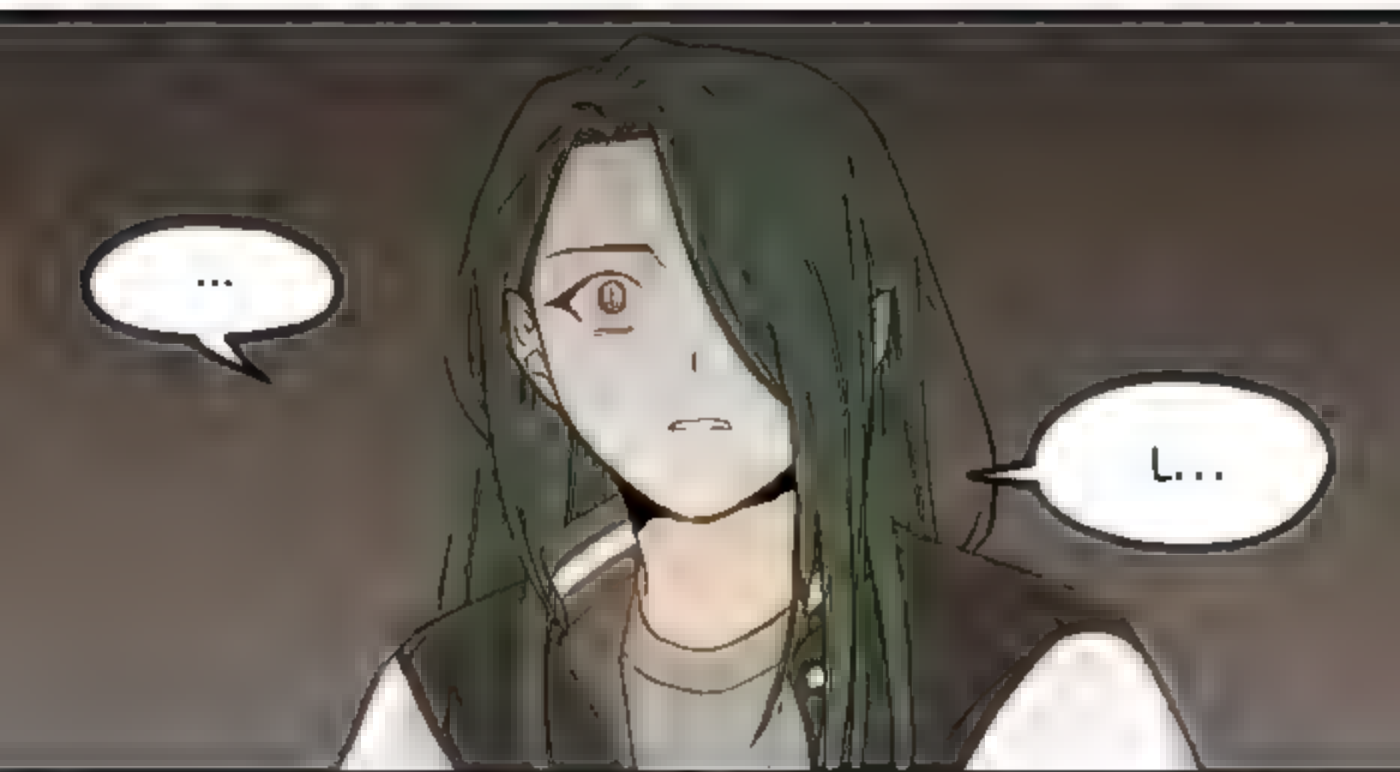


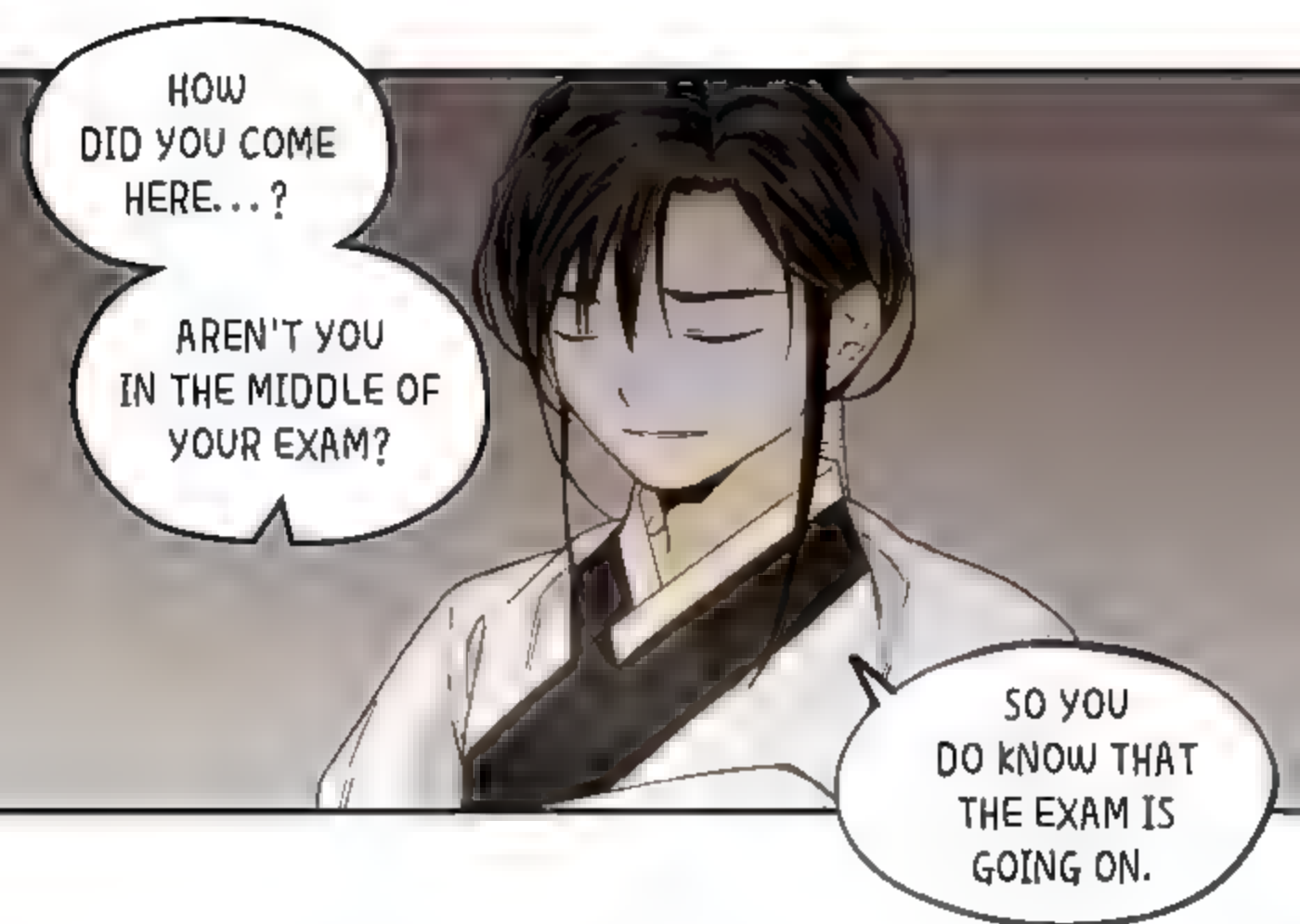
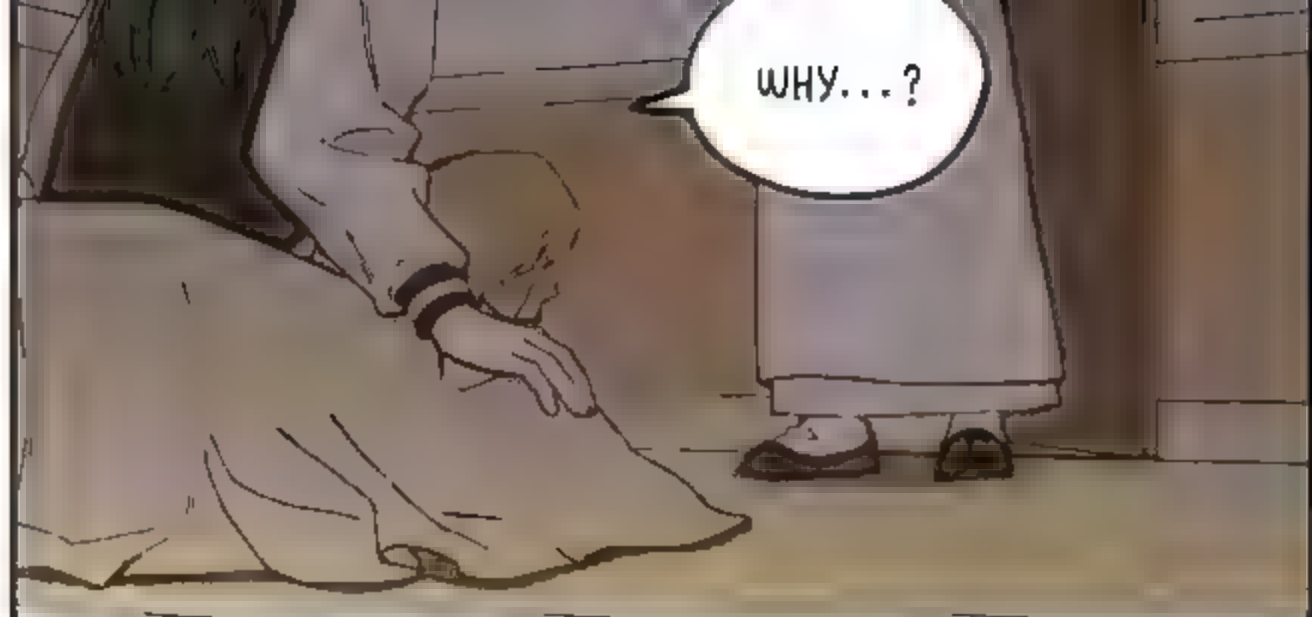


WELL.

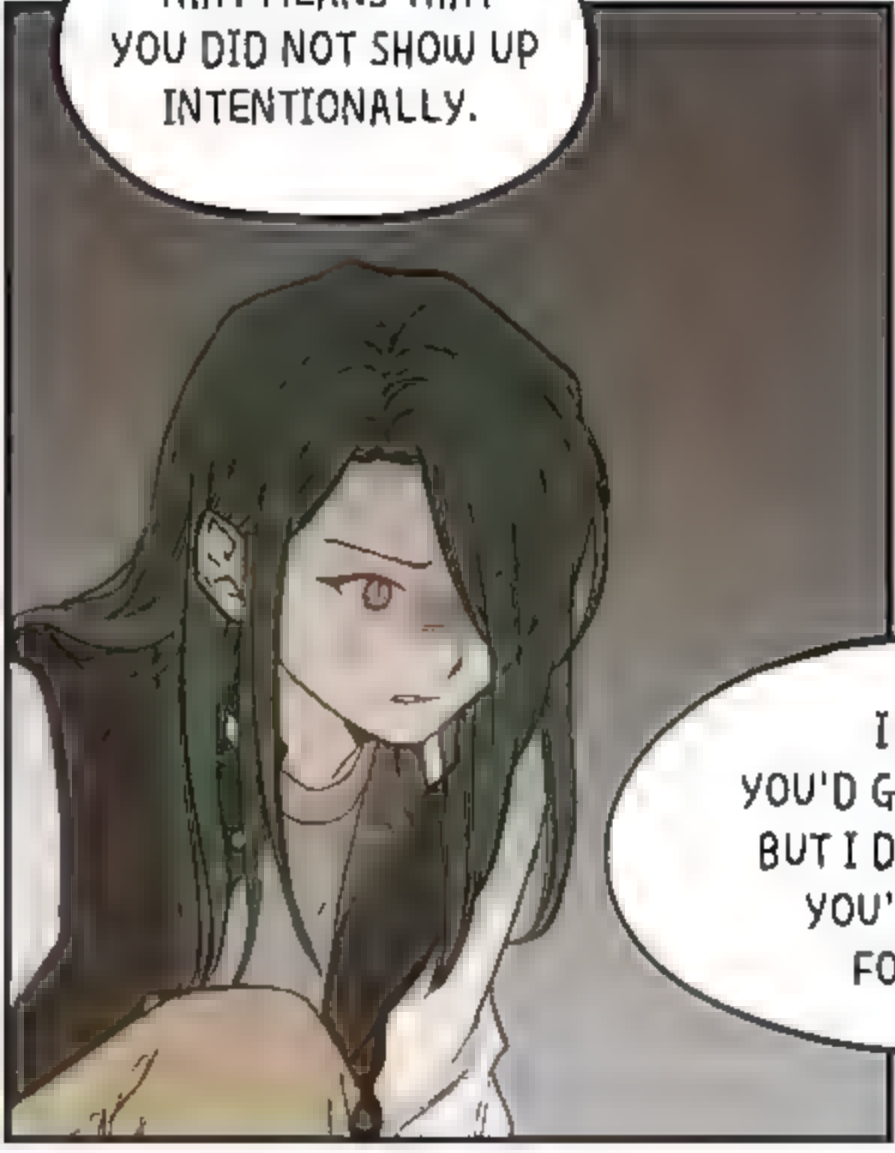
ARE YOU
HAPPY NOW?







THAT MEANS THAT
YOU DID NOT SHOW UP
INTENTIONALLY.



I KNEW
YOU'D GROWN DULL,
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW
YOU'D BE THIS
FOOLISH.

YOU
SHOULD HAVE
LOOKED FURTHER
AHEAD.

NOW WHAT WILL
YOU DO ABOUT THAT
GIRL'S KARMA?



...

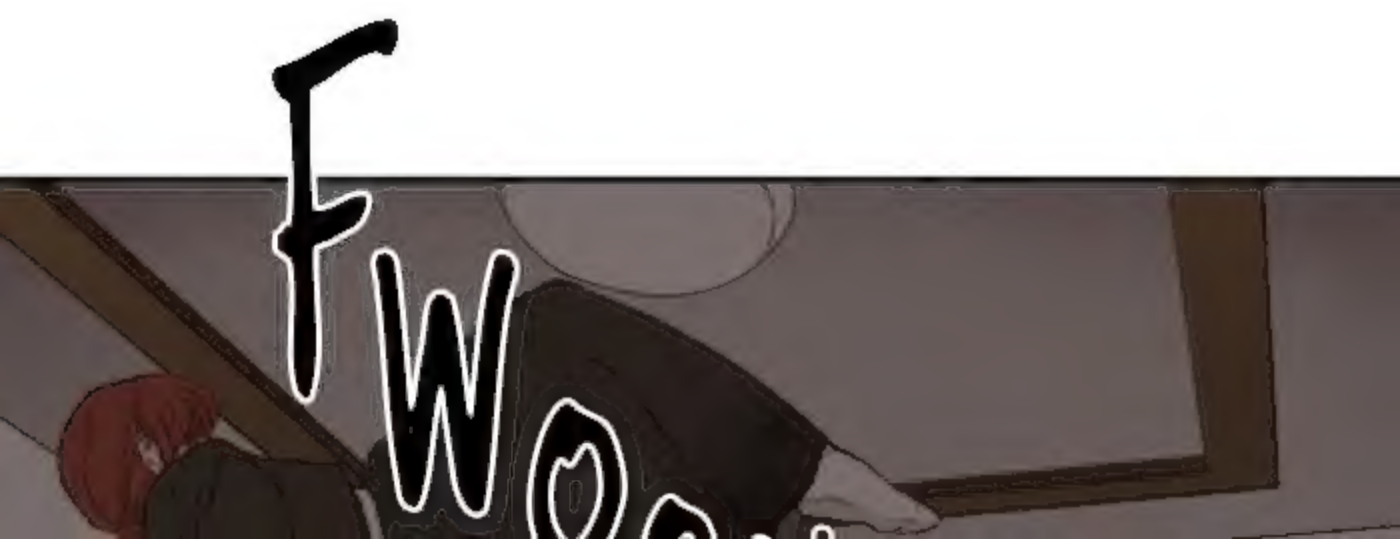
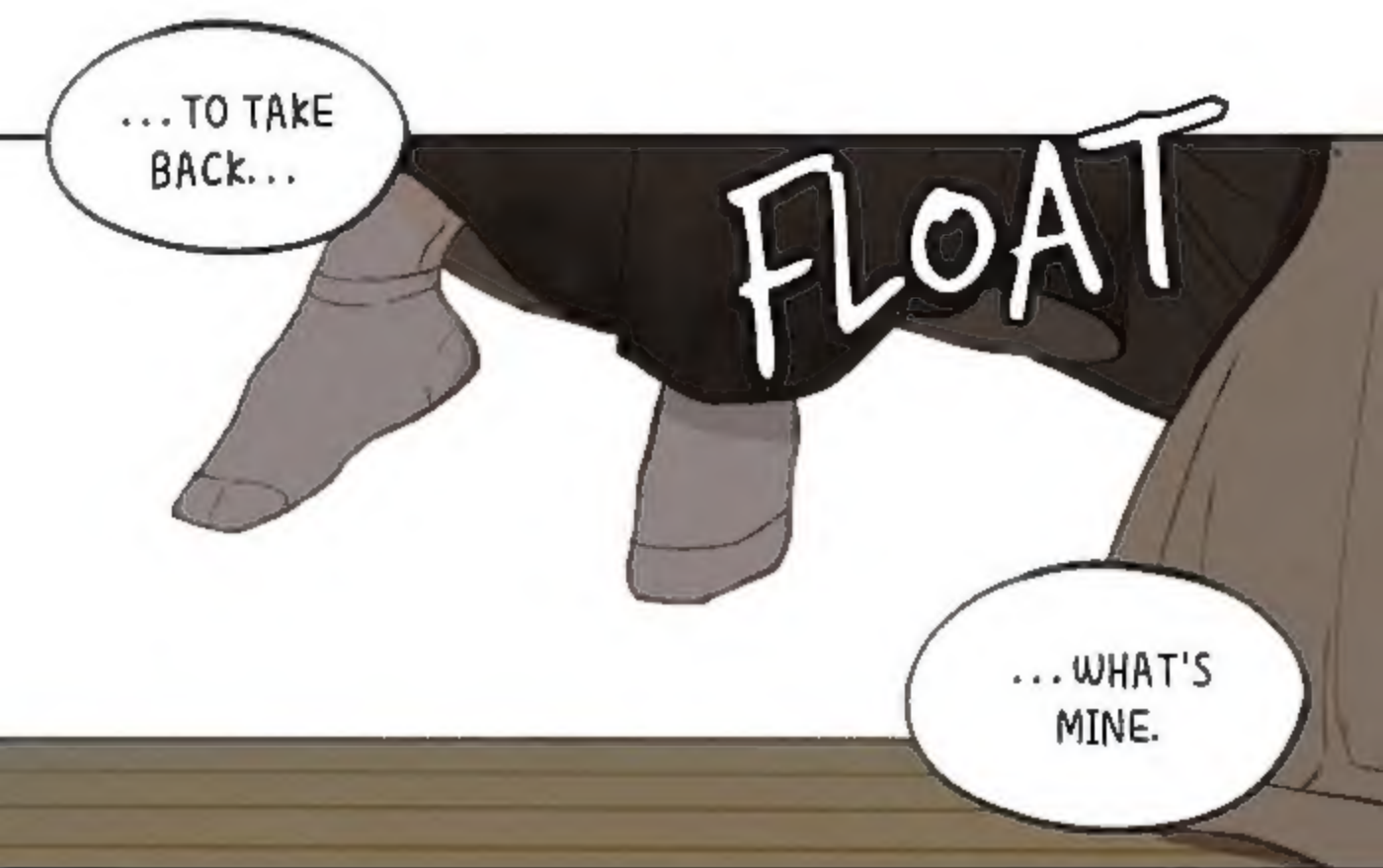




DID YOU COME
HERE JUST TO SAY
THIS TO ME?

OF COURSE NOT.
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF
A VERY IMPORTANT
EXAM.

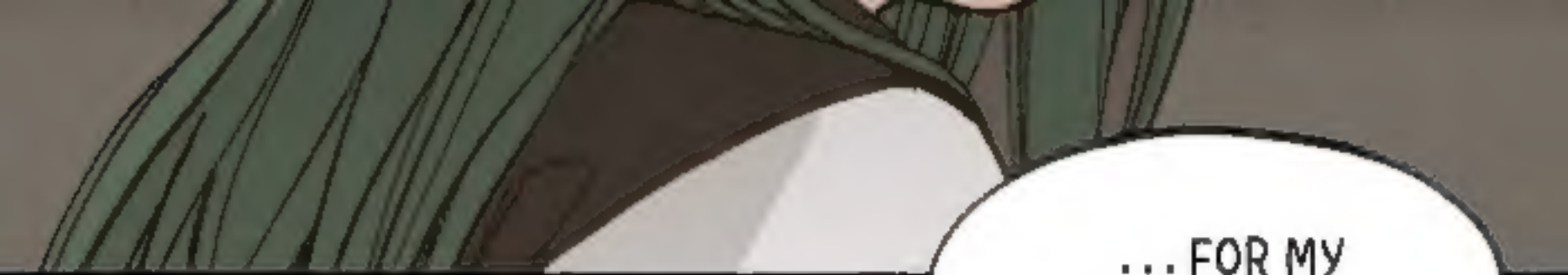
I'M SIMPLY
HERE...





YOU SEE,
I NEED IT...



A character with long, flowing green hair and a dark, possibly black, cape or cloak is shown from the chest up. The character's face is partially visible at the top center of the frame.

... FOR MY
FINAL EXAM.